

There are currently productive and significantly safer methods than Hydraulic Fracturing for producing our abundant Natural Gas resources: Standard as well as Horizontal Drilling methods remain effective. Yet Federal, State, local, as well as EPA officials appear to ALL be working to get out of the way of the OIL & GAS Industry's use of the Hydraulic Fracturing method and the known risks to our drinking water resources this method leaves behind: billions of gallons of the carcinogenic byproduct – fracking fluid. These billions of gallons of carcinogenic fracking fluids are currently stored and disposed of across this great country and our own beautiful state of Colorado in thousands of leaking surface pits and injected into the earth in thousands of deep "Class II wells". In 2005 the Bush administration worked successfully with congress and the EPA to exempt the OIL & Gas industry from all Laws under the Clean Water Act including specific exemption from requirements under the **Underground Injection Control Program (UIC)** that requires "proper well siting, construction, and operation to minimize risks to underground sources of drinking water". This strategic exemption was followed by a mass explosion of the use of Hydraulic Fracturing across this nation and in our state. The disastrous consequences of this time bomb of years of Hydraulic Fracturing and leaking fracking fluid storage pits and disposal wells is showing up all over our nation, in our State, and includes the town of Pavillion in our neighboring state of Wyoming where they suffered the first verified contamination of both ground water and a FRESH WATER AQUIFER with the carcinogenic fracking fluid chemical cocktail of BTEX – Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, and Xylene. And what is the EPA's strategy to protect our water? They "proposed standards to reduce air pollution from oil and gas drilling operations". Protecting our air is vital, but while they strive to reduce air emissions from these drilling operations and storage pits that cause "pollution and cause cancer", what is going to be done to protect our water resources from these same pollutants and cancer causing agents that are currently being stored and disposed of in massive quantities on and below our earth's surface where our critical drinking water resources lie? Why is the EPA not loudly recommending that the exemption of the Oil and Gas Industry from the Clean Water Act that was approved in 2005 be reversed? Will our own COGCC (Colorado oil and gas commission) actually IMPLIMENT the new recommendations it had proposed in its' 10/2011 report? Will state municipalities who sell the citizens drinking water for profit to the Oil & Gas Industry to be used for Hydraulic Fracturing and the production of carcinogenic Fracking Fluids take their own initiative to protect these same citizens and DEMAND the highest industry standards in construction and materials be used at both well and storage and disposal sites IN THEIR CONTRACTS with the Oil & Gas Industry they sell our water to? Meanwhile, in Pavillion Wyoming the ATSDR "recommended that residents use alternate water for cooking and drinking", and there is currently an active "investigation of alternatives for PERMANENT alternative sources of water". Once contaminated you cannot clean groundwater or fresh water aquifers. Why must we wait for a larger scale permanent fresh water resource contamination before we recognize that "maximum" producing Natural Gas using Hydraulic Fracturing is not worth the risk when the safer methods of Standard Drilling and Horizontal Drilling are indeed sufficient?